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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,530	07/06/2001	Toshiya Kojima	Q64665	3383

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EXAMINER

LIANG, LEONARD S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2853

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/899,530	KOJIMA ET AL.
	Examiner Leonard S Liang	Art Unit 2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-9,11 and 12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3, 6, 10, 13 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

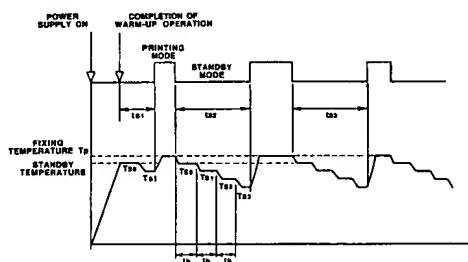
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al (US Pat 5321478).

Nakamura et al (US Pat 5321478) discloses:

- {claim 1} An image-forming device (column 1, lines 8-12) comprising: a heating device (column 1, lines 29-30); a control device which controls the heating device by on/off control (column 1, lines 29-47), and alters a period of on/off control in accordance with control modes (figure 16, reference Printing Mode, Standby Mode, ts1, ts2, ts3), the control modes including a printing mode for maintaining the heating drum at the predetermined temperature during image-formation (figure 16, reference printing mode; column 1, lines 31-38), and at least one ordinary mode which is used at times other than during image formation (figure 16, reference standby mode; column 1, lines 31-38), wherein, if a period of on/off control of the printing mode is T1 and a period of on/off control is T0, then $T1 < T0$ (figure 16, reference Printing Mode, Standby Mode, ts2)

FIG.16

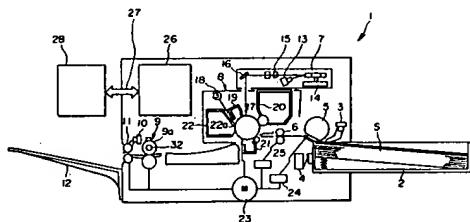


- {claim 2} standby mode (column 1, lines 31-38); pre-heating mode (figure 16, reference Ts1, Ts2, Ts3; column 1, lines 57-60; column 2, lines 7-10) ; if the period of on/off control of the printing mode is T1, a period of on/off control of the standby mode is T2 and a period of on/off control of the pre-heating mode is T3, then at least one of the

following relationships: $T1 < T2$ and $T1 < T3$ is satisfied ($T1 < T3$; figure 16, reference $Ts1$, $Ts2$, $Ts3$)

- {claim 4} information of the image is recorded onto a photosensitive material by exposure (figure 1, reference 18; column 4, lines 67-68), and the image is formed on a transfer material which is superposed with the photosensitive material at the heating drum (column 1, lines 14-22). As drafted, this reads on the claimed invention.

FIG.1



- {claim 5} the control device alters a duty ratio of on/off control in response to a difference between a current temperature of the heating drum and the pre-determined temperature (column 1, lines 42-47)
- {claim 7} when image formation has finished, the printing mode is deselected and the standby mode is selected (figure 16, reference Printing Mode, Standby Mode)
- {claim 8} if the standby mode is selected and no image-formation is performed for a predetermined period of time, then the pre-heating mode is selected (figure 16, reference Ts0, Ts1)
- {claim 9} in the pre-heating mode, the heating drum is maintained at a temperature lower than the predetermined temperature (figure 16, reference Ts0, Ts1)
- {claim 11} information of the image is recorded onto a light and heat sensitive material by exposure, and the image is formed on the light and heat sensitive material by heating at the heating drum (column 1, lines 14-30; column 4, lines 67-68)
- {claim 12} An image-forming device in which image information is exposed onto and carried by photosensitive material, and an image is formed on transfer material by the transfer material being superposed with the photosensitive material at a heating drum heated to a predetermined temperature (as taught in claim 4), the device comprising: a heating device which heats the heating drum; and a control device which controls the heating device by on/off control, and alters a period of on/off control in accordance with

control modes, and alters a period of on/off control in accordance with control modes (as taught in claim 1), the control modes including a printing mode for maintaining the heating drum at the predetermined temperature during image-formation, a standby mode for keeping the heating drum in a state such that image information can be initiated promptly, and a pre-heating mode for reducing power consumption of the heating drum while keeping the heating drum in a state such that image-formation can be initiated in a short time (as taught in claim 2), wherein, if a period of on/off control of the printing mode is T1, a period of on/off control of the standby mode is T2 and a period of on/off control of the pre-heating mode is T3, then $T1 \leq T2$ (figure 16; notice the widths of Printing Mode and Standby Mode $Ts0$ are the same), $T1 \leq T3$ (figure 16, notice the width of Printing Mode is less than that of Pre-Heat Mode $Ts1+Ts2+Ts3$), and at least one of T2 and T3 is greater than T1 ($T3 > T1$ as taught in claim 2 above).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3, 6, 10, and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3 and 13 includes the limitation of “The image-forming device...wherein the periods T1, T2 and T3 are set so as to satisfy the relationship $T1 < T2 < T3$,” which was not found, taught, or suggested in the prior arts.

Claim 6 includes the limitation of “The image-forming device...wherein from a time when a power source of the image-forming device is turned on until a time when the predetermined temperature is reached, the period of on/off control of the heating drum is set to a period the same as the period of on/off control of the printing mode, and when the predetermined temperature has been reached, the ordinary mode is selected for maintaining the predetermined temperature,” which was not found, taught, or suggested in the prior arts.

Claim 10 includes the limitation of “The image-forming device...wherein there is another temperature control signal at the image-forming device, and a temperature control signal of the heating drum has a phase difference with respect to the other temperature control signal,” which was not found, taught, or suggested in the prior arts.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 02/04/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant discloses that Nakamura et al fails to disclose altering a period of on/off control in accordance with control modes because each period shown in Makamura et al is a duration of time from a completion of a warm-up operation or a previous completion of a printing mode to a next printing mode, rather than the period of on/off control recited in claim 1 of the present invention. However, Nakamura et al clearly teaches "The temperature control unit performs **on-off control** of current supply to the heater..." The different controlled modes are dependent on this on/off control of the heater, which describes a period of on/off control in accordance with control modes.

The applicant further submits that "the standby temperature...indicates that a temperature is apparently lower than a fixing temperature T_p . Thus, the standby mode disclosed in Nakamura is different from the standby mode as recited in claim 2 of the present application." The examiner concedes that the standby mode disclosed by Nakamura et al is different from the standby mode disclosed by the applicant. However, the examiner submits that the warm-up mode disclosed by Nakamura et al (column 1, lines 35-38) corresponds to the standby mode disclosed in claim 2 of the applicant's invention because it maintains the temperature of the heating drum at the predetermined temperature such that image-formation can be initiated promptly (column 1, lines 35-38; prompt image-formation is naturally suggested by the concept of a "warm-up" mode). Similarly, the standby mode disclosed by Nakamura et al actually corresponds to the pre-heating mode of the applicant's invention because it reduces power consumption of the heating drum while keeping the heating drum in a state such that image-formation can be initiated in a short time (column 1, lines 57-60; column 2, lines 7-10).

The applicant also submits that Nakamura does not disclose or suggest a mode that is (a) power-saving and (b) permits image formation to be initiated in a short period of time. However, as shown above, Nakamura et al discloses a warmup mode and a standby mode which is power-saving and permits image formation to be initiated in a short time (column 1, lines 57-60; column 2, lines 7-10). The invention naturally suggests that if the standby mode has been selected and image formation has not occurred for a predetermined time period, then a pre-heating mode is selected. The motivation for this is to gain the benefit of lessening the economic burden on the user (column 1, lines 48-60).

All other arguments are based on these arguments, which have now been responded to.

Final Rejection

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S Liang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4754. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on (703) 308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

lsl *LSL*
April 9, 2003

Judy Nguyen
JUDY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER